candidates for posts of Nursing Tutors and that leading to the award of Diploma as 'Nursing Administrator' (Part 'B'—Administration) is intended to prepare candidates for posts of Nursing Administrators. While candidates possessing the former qualification are appointed to posts of Nursing Tutors, persons holding the latter qualification are not eligible for appointment as Nursing Tutors for the reason that they are not trained in observation and teaching in schools of Nursing. However, persons possessing Part A Teaching qualification can be appointed as Nursing Superintendents.

Staff Nurses

* 260 *Q*.—Sri S. NANJUNDA ROW: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the staff nurses in the General Hospital have sent a representation to the Government stating that it is very difficult for them to work continuously for 12 hours both during day and night;

(*b*) whether there is any proposal to introduce shift system (8 hours) in the hospitals to bring about efficiency and also relief to the staff as is done in the case of factory labourers; and

(*c*) whether the Government will consider the question of giving a weekly holiday for the nurses and the other menial staff to improve their working conditions?

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: (*a*) No such representation has been received by Government. The working hours of Nurses are 8 to 9 hours per day for day duty Nurses and 12 hours with a break of one hour for rest for night duty Nurses.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The present strength of staff does not permit the grant of weekly holidays to Nurses. They are however given half-a-day off every week and also 2 or 3 days off a month, whenever possible. Hospital workers in the category of Nursing Orderlies, Cooks, Lascars and Thoties in the City Hospitals, Teaching Hospitals and District Headquarters Hospitals are already enjoying weekly holidays.

Sri S. NANJUNDA ROW: In the Nurses Conference held at Coimbatore, the nurses made these demands. May I request the Hon. Minister to state whether they have considered these demands?

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: The resolutions were passed at the General Body Meeting of the Madras Government Nurses' Association. All the resolutions were examined and it was found impossible to grant their request since the nurses were already getting half-a-day's off and 3 days holidays in a month.